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- 5.—*Essai sur la langue basque, par François Ribáry, professeur à l'université de Pest. Traduit du hongrois, avec des notes complémentaires et suivi d'une notice bibliographique, par Julien Vinson.* Paris, 1877, 8vo, pp. xxv.-158.

THE origin of this little book is somewhat curious. Ribáry is Professor of History, author of a number of historical books, and philologist only in connection with his historical studies. Having read Prince Louis Lucien Bonaparte's "Langue Basque et Langues Finnoises" (1862), which establishes analogies between the isolated mountain tongue of the Iberian Peninsula and the branch of languages to which the Hungarian belongs, he studied the Basque in order to verify those conclusions, but arrived at a negative result. He communicated the fruits of his studies in an elaborate essay in two parts, published in 1866, in the leading philological periodical of his country, the *Nyelotudományi Közlemények* ("Linguistic Reports"). M. Vinson, a scholar devoted to Basque studies, heard of the existence of the Hungarian professor's production, obtained it, and, in order to possess himself of its contents, mastered the entirely unknown language in which it was written; and he now lays it before a wider public in a faithful translation, to which are added a preface, notes, and a large bibliographical index. The original essay embraces a rather brief but interesting introduction, on the relation of the Basque language to others, and a grammar, the bulk of which, owing to the character of the subject, is devoted to the verb. The translator's preface enlarges on the contents of the introduction, and the notes contain both supplementary matter and corrections of statements by the author considered erroneous. Both fully agree in rejecting the Finnic theory, while the translator also speaks disparagingly of the speculations representing the Basques as the special descendants of the ancient Iberians. Both leave the Basque language in entire isolation, as an idiom *sui generis*, such as are, according to Ribáry, also the Lesghian, and other tongues of the Caucasus, by some pretended to be of Finnic origin. The latter admits, however, that there are some traits discoverable both in Basque and in the langues of the Caucasians, which point to some early contact with Finnism, the domain of which may have extended in prehistoric times "all over those vast regions bounded by the Finnish Peninsula and the strait of Messina, the Atlantic Ocean, and the Altai Mountains."
